

An Account of the Surrender of the Old

CHARTER

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Northampton,

September the 26. and the manner of Their
Receiving Their New *Charter*, &c.

Together with an Eloquent Speech made by *Robert Clerk Esq;* (Deputy Recorder
of *Northampton*) upon that Occasion.

Y Eſterday, the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs and Burgeſſes, walk'd in their Formalities to the Limits of the Town; and met the Right Honourable the Earl of *Peterbourgh*, Lord Lieutenant of the County, and High Recorder of the Town: accompanied with a great confluence of Nobility and Gentry on Horſe-back; and attended by a body of the County Horſe. My Lord alighting, preſented a new *Charter* from the King, with an Excellent Diſcourſe upon the Gracious favour of His Maſteſty to the Town. The Mayor in the name of the new Corporation, humbly received it on his Knees, with due Reſpect, Joy, and gratitude of mind.

When this was done, my Lord mounted again on Horſe-back; the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, and Burgeſſes, leading the way to the Town-Hall, the *Charter* being carried before them by the Town-Clerk bare-headed: the Trumpets ſounding, Bells Ringing, and Wind-Muſick playing aloud. When they came to the Hall, the *Charter* was read, which being done, *Robert Clerk Esq;* our Deputy Recorder, made the inſcribed Speech, a true Copy whereof is here incerted. After this, they were all entertain'd at a ſplendid Dinner by the Corporation, and with great rejoycing, they did Solemnly and ſoberly conclude that happy day.



Mr. Mayor, and You the Gentlemen of the Corporation.

BY the Bounty of His Maſteſty, and His Royal Progenitors Kings of England, you have had great Priviledges and freedoms beſtowed upon you.

They have likewiſe put ſo much confidence in you, as to truſt you with a great ſhare of the Government of this Town.

But ſo it fell out, that certain evil men have lately crept into Authority among you, and by their Stubborn and Seditious Practices, have abuſed this Truſt, and forfeited thoſe Liberties: You did Judge right, when you apprehended theſe ill conſequences ſprang originally from ſome defect in your Charter. And

And you did resolve wisely, when you entred into thoughts of surrendring it, together with such Liberties and Rights, as were annex'd to your Corporation; and to lay them at His Majesty's Feet, with an humble request, that He would grant you back what he thought most suitable for you.

And you did it seasonably in point of time, before too much notice had been taken above, of some extravagancies that had happen'd here below; which might otherwise have produc'd inconvenient effects.

The King most Graciously accepted them; not with any thoughts (you do see) of abridging your Liberties, retaining your Revenues, or cutting off any Branch of your former Authority in the Government of this Town.

For they are all re-granted to you to a Tittle, together with some other accommodations in your Government, which you did request.

If you could have thought on any more advantages, and would have desired them, I have reason to believe you might have had them; but indeed the King hath been so kind to you, that you cannot quickly find out what he hath not already granted you.

His Majesty hath reserved only to himself, (which is indeed a most Gracious Favour to you all) that whereas you have heretofore been Subject to His Correction if you did ill: now He has made it His care (by way of prevention) that you may not hereafter be amiss.

And now may you (under the Providence of Almighty God) date your Felicities from this time, if you please.

For it rests only, that you of the Loyal Party be constant and united; and the rather, because the Seditious have been broken in their measures of the late Plot, and have since then, made it their business to gain a great point in sowing Divisions among the well affected in several parts of the Nation.

Is there any among you have been tainted with ill Principles that you revolve often in your minds? now there is an eye upon you, which will have a respect to Justice, as well as Mercy.

And that you do shew your selves humbly grateful to the King who has graciously received your Address, pass'd by what former failings has been among you, and given you these good things, and to conclude that you bear Faith and true Allegiance to His Majesty and to His Heirs and Lawful Successors by Birth-right, according to the Ancient and Fundamental Laws of the Crown and Kingdom. For they certainly will prove the best support of the Established Government, in Church and State.